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ABSTRACT

The Community Profiles Project uses data from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policy makers and practitioners in developing programs and policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective. This profile focuses on Lynn. The 3,203 Asian Pacific Americans living in Lynn accounted for 4% of the city's residents, and this represented an increase of over 15 times from the Asian Pacific American population in 1980. Most of the city's Asian Pacific Americans were Cambodians. English language proficiency reflected interesting differences in various age groups, with those over 65 having the highest proportion identified as speaking English very well, as well as the highest proportion of those speaking English "not well or not at all." Household incomes of Asian Pacific Americans in Lynn reflected wide disparities, but the per capita income was less than one-half that of Whites, less than that of Blacks, and comparable to that of Latinos. The unemployment rates of Asian Pacific Americans males and females were less than those for all groups and the total population, but labor force participation rates were also less than those for all groups. More than 40% of the Asian Pacific Americans in Lynn were enrolled in school, which was the highest proportion of any ethnic group in the city. A substantially higher percentage of Asian Pacific Americans over age 25 had at least a ninth-grade education when compared with other groups, and a much smaller proportion of Asian Pacific Americans were high school graduates. (Contains nine figures and eight tables.) (SLD)

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Asian Pacific Americans in Lynn.
Community Profiles in Massachusetts

Institute for Asian American Studies · UMass Boston

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COMMUNITY PROFILES IN MASSACHUSETTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS *in Lynn*

INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES • UMASS BOSTON • BOSTON, MA 02125

The Community Profiles Project utilizes data drawn from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policymakers and practitioners in developing programs and constructing policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective.

The Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston brings together resources and expertise from both the campus and community to conduct research on Asian Pacific American issues, to expand Asian American studies in the curriculum, and to support community development initiatives in Asian Pacific American communities in Massachusetts.

Project Staff: Project director: Paul Watanabe. Principal researchers: Carlton Sagara and Joanne Chow. Design and Production: Shauna Lo and Marilyn Wu.

Support provided by: The Boston Foundation.

CP7-1 96

I. Population Characteristics

Table 1. Population by Race*

White	67,445
Black	6,316
Other	4,087
Asian Pacific American	3,203
Native American	194
TOTAL	81,245

*Latinos may be of any race

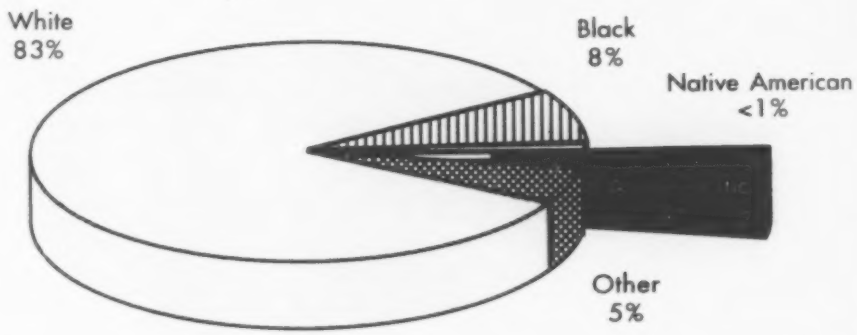


Figure 1

• The 3,203 Asian Pacific Americans recorded in the 1990 census as living in Lynn (Table 1) accounted for 4% of the city's residents (Figure 1). During the 1980s, the number of Asian Pacific Americans in Lynn increased by over fifteen times.

• Cambodians accounted for two-thirds of the Asian Pacific American population (Table 2). Laotians, Vietnamese, and Chinese were also well represented in Lynn.

• The Asian Pacific American population was relatively young (Figure 2). The sex distribution was unusually varied in certain age groups (Figure 2).

• English language proficiency reflected some interesting differences in various age groups (Figure 3). Proficiency levels were similar between the 5 to 17 and 18 to 64 age groups. The 65 and over group had the highest proportion identified as speaking English "very well" and the highest proportion identified as speaking English "not well or not at all."

Table 2. Ancestry of Asian Pacific Americans

Cambodian	2,113	66.0%
Laotian	347	10.8%
Vietnamese	281	8.8%
Chinese	157	4.9%
Asian Indian	87	2.7%
Korean	66	2.1%
Japanese	53	1.7%
Other Asian	42	1.3%
Filipino	37	1.2%
Thai	11	0.3%
Guamanian	9	0.3%
Hawaiian	0	0.0%
Samoan	0	0.0%
Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
TOTAL	3,203	100.0%

Figure 2. Asian Pacific Americans by Sex and Age

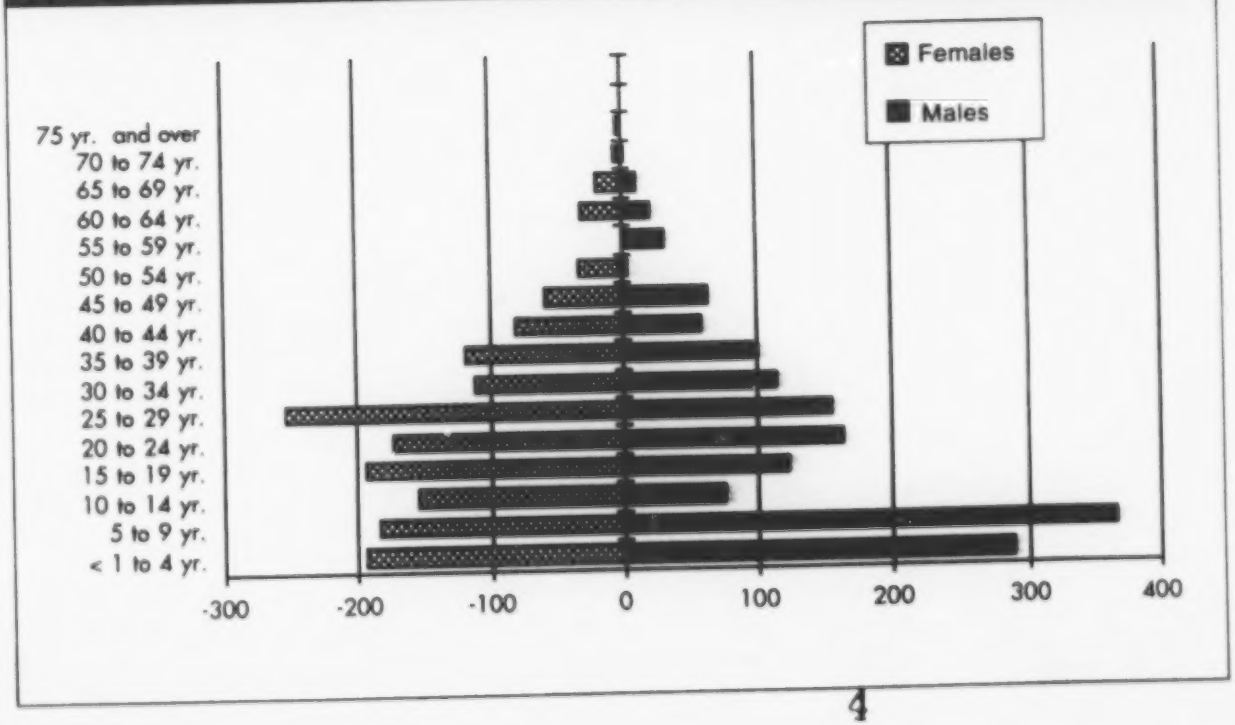
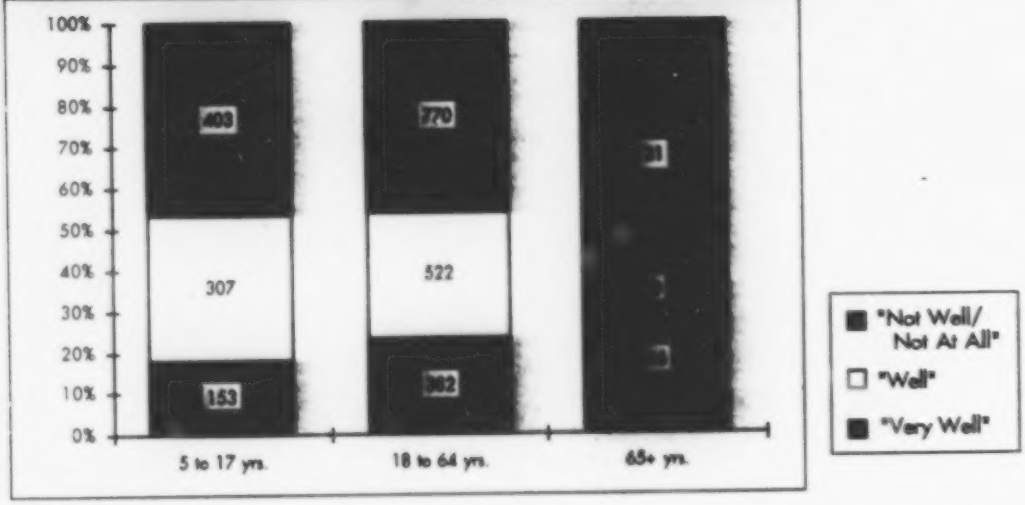


Figure 3. English Proficiency Among Asian Pacific Americans



II. Income

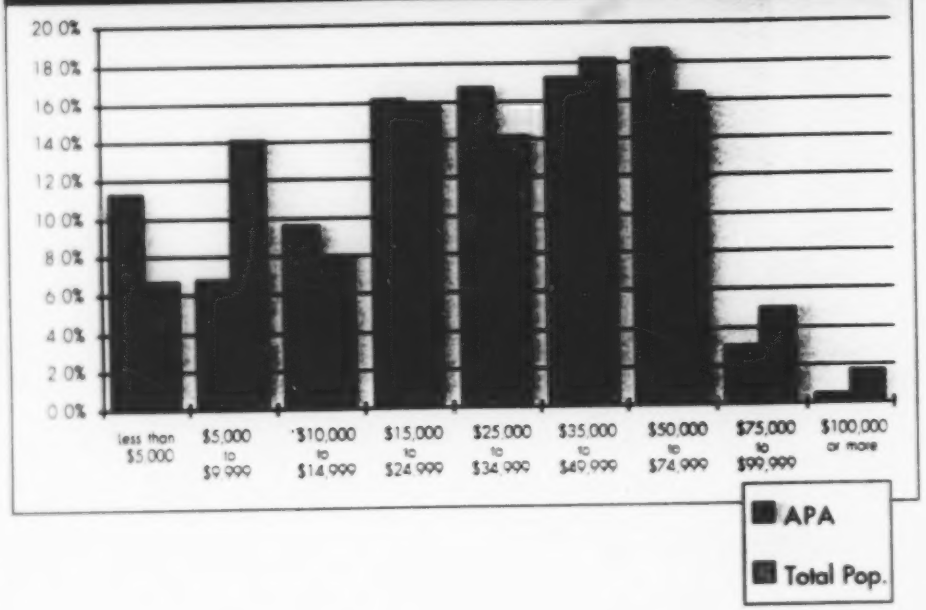
Table 3. Household Income by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than $5,000	67	1,576	229	10	220	301	2,102
	11.3%	5.7%	10.7%	14.5%	19.6%	14.8%	6.7%
$5,000 to $9,999	40	3,805	366	14	210	384	4,435
	6.8%	13.9%	17.1%	20.3%	18.7%	18.9%	14.1%
$10,000 to $14,999	57	2,116	175	17	105	290	2,470
	9.6%	7.7%	8.2%	24.6%	9.3%	14.2%	7.9%
$15,000 to $24,999	96	4,173	505	28	204	376	5,006
	16.2%	15.2%	23.6%	40.6%	18.1%	18.5%	15.9%
$25,000 to $34,999	99	3,974	223	0	148	251	4,444
	16.7%	14.5%	10.4%	0.0%	13.2%	12.3%	14.2%
$35,000 to $49,999	102	5,063	360	0	162	269	5,687
	17.2%	18.4%	16.9%	0.0%	14.4%	13.2%	18.1%
$50,000 to $74,999	110	4,768	184	0	71	147	5,133
	18.6%	17.4%	8.6%	0.0%	6.3%	7.2%	16.4%
$75,000 to $99,999	18	1,469	70	0	5	19	1,562
	3.0%	5.3%	3.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	5.0%
$100,000 or more	3	524	24	0	0	0	551
	0.5%	1.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
TOTAL	592	27,468	2,136	69	1,125	2,037	31,390
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Latinos may be of any race

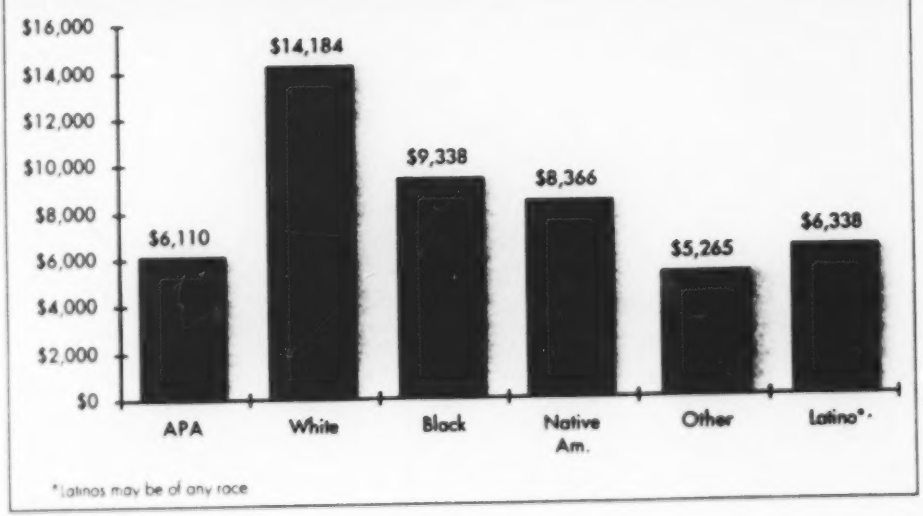
• Household incomes of Asian Pacific Americans reflected some wide disparities (Table 3 and Figure 4). For example, the proportion of Asian Pacific Americans in the lowest income category (those making less than $5,000) was larger than that of whites and the total population. The percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the two highest categories (those making over $75,000) was much less than that of whites and the total population.

Figure 4. Household Income for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population



• The per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans was less than one-half that of whites, less than that of Blacks, and comparable to that of Latinos (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity



• Approximately 55% of Asian Pacific Americans in poverty were less than 18 years of age (Table 4).

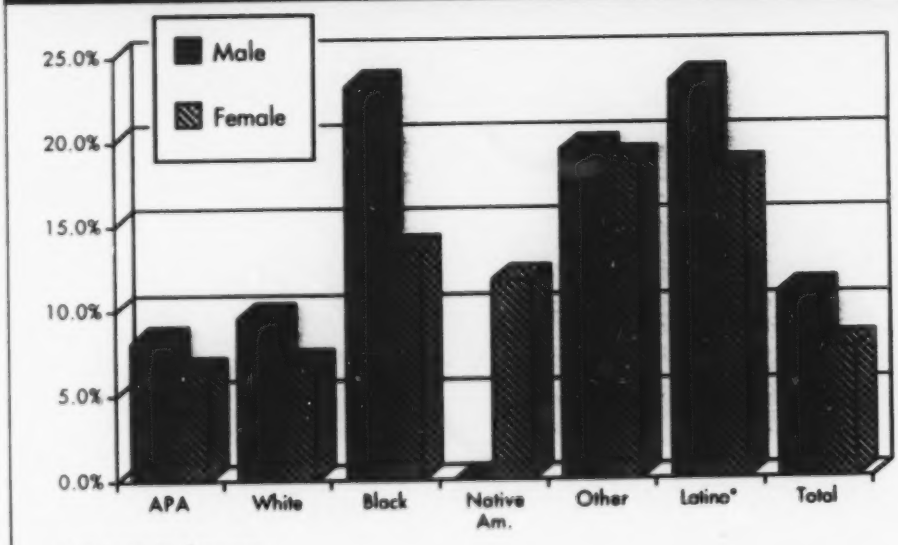
Table 4. Poverty Status by Age by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Under 5 years	207	932	458	5	321	562	1,923
	19.7%	12.2%	21.0%	8.6%	17.6%	18.7%	15.1%
5 years	74	182	85	0	57	93	398
	7.0%	2.4%	3.9%	0.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
6 to 11 years	204	880	329	12	304	418	1,729
	19.4%	11.5%	15.1%	20.7%	16.7%	13.9%	13.6%
12 to 17 years	91	583	220	5	262	464	1,161
	8.7%	7.6%	10.1%	8.6%	14.4%	15.4%	9.1%
18 to 64 years	469	3,818	1,019	36	846	1,396	6,188
	44.6%	50.0%	46.6%	62.1%	46.4%	46.5%	48.5%
65 to 74 years	7	552	43	0	19	45	621
	0.7%	7.2%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.5%	4.9%
75 years and over	0	691	31	0	14	27	736
	0.0%	9.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.8%	0.9%	5.8%
TOTAL	1,052	7,638	2,185	58	1,823	3,005	12,756
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

III. Employment

Figure 6. Unemployment Rate By Sex, Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

• The unemployment rates of Asian Pacific American males and females were less than those for all groups and the total population (Table 5).

• The labor force participation rates of Asian Pacific American males and females were less than those for all groups and the total population (Table 5).

Table 5: Labor Force Attachment for Persons 16 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Males	820	25,333	1,908	17	1,242	2,175	29,320
In Armed Forces	0	60	0	0	0	0	60
Civilian: Employed	500	16,422	1,120	0	725	1,253	18,767
Civilian: Unemployed	44	1,734	338	0	174	383	2,290
Not in labor force	276	7,117	450	17	343	539	8,203
Male Unempl. Rate#	8.1%	9.6%	23.2%	0%	19.4%	23.4%	10.9%
Participation Rate@	66.3%	71.8%	76.4%	0%	72.4%	75.2%	72.0%
Females	1,071	29,130	2,275	102	1,333	2,339	33,911
In Armed Forces	0	19	0	0	0	0	19
Civilian: Employed	433	15,129	1,187	53	484	934	17,286
Civilian: Unemployed	29	1,101	185	7	111	207	1,433
Not in labor force	609	12,881	903	42	738	1,198	15,173
Female Unempl. Rate#	6.3%	6.8%	13.5%	11.7%	18.7%	18.1%	7.7%
Participation Rate@	43.1%	55.8%	60.3%	58.8%	44.6%	48.8%	55.2%

Unempl. Rate = (Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl. + Civilian Unempl.)
@ Participation Rate=(Civilian Employed+Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl.+Civilian Unempl.+Not in Labor Force)

*Latinos may be of any race

IV. Education

Table 6: School Enrollment of Persons 3 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
In Preprimary School	75	1,130	58	18	67	122	1,348
	2.6%	1.7%	1.0%	9.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%
Elem. or High School	897	9,102	1,268	12	1,115	1,709	12,394
	31.1%	14.1%	22.1%	6.4%	29.5%	25.9%	16.1%
Enrolled in College	241	3,938	556	8	235	423	4,978
	8.4%	6.1%	9.7%	4.3%	6.2%	6.4%	6.5%
Not Enrolled in School	1,669	50,407	3,853	149	2,368	4,347	58,446
	57.9%	78.1%	67.2%	79.7%	62.6%	65.9%	75.7%
TOTAL	2,882	64,577	5,735	187	3,785	6,601	77,166
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

Figure 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population

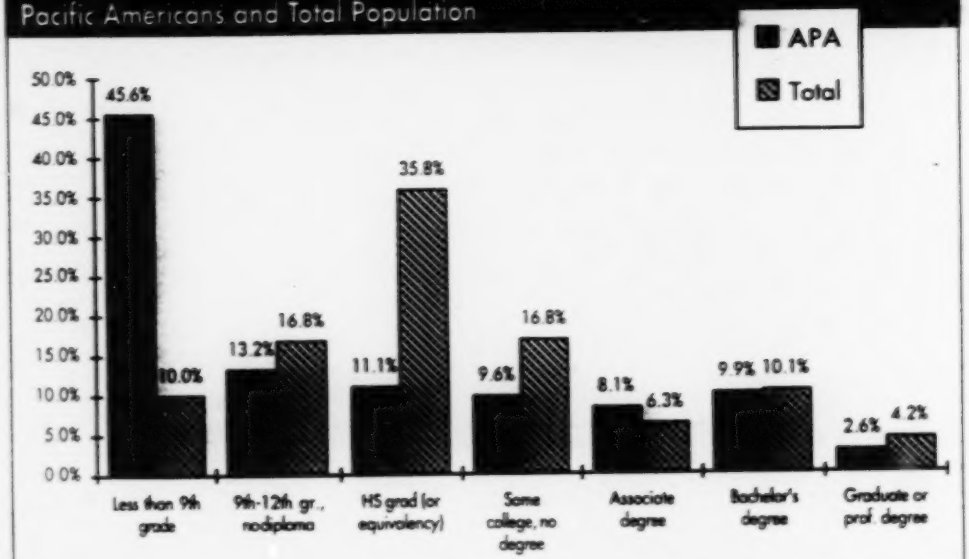


Table 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than 9th grade	585	3,903	212	48	549	1,026	5,297
	45.6%	8.4%	6.5%	43.2%	34.1%	33.5%	10.0%
9th-12th gr., no diploma	169	7,631	754	11	313	669	8,878
	13.2%	16.4%	23.2%	9.9%	19.5%	21.9%	16.8%
HS grad (or equivalency)	142	17,247	1,063	19	437	723	18,908
	11.1%	37.0%	32.7%	17.1%	27.2%	23.6%	35.8%
Some college, no degree	123	7,972	617	18	168	344	8,898
	9.6%	17.1%	19.0%	16.2%	10.4%	11.2%	16.8%
Associate degree	104	2,949	211	0	56	122	3,320
	8.1%	6.3%	6.5%	0.0%	3.5%	4.0%	6.3%
Bachelor's degree	127	4,835	323	7	42	131	5,334
	9.9%	10.4%	9.9%	6.3%	2.6%	4.3%	10.1%
Graduate or prof. degree	34	2,080	75	8	44	45	2,241
	2.6%	4.5%	2.3%	7.2%	2.7%	1.5%	4.2%
TOTAL	1,284	46,617	3,255	111	1,609	3,060	52,876
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

- More than 40% of all Asian Pacific Americans were enrolled in school which was the highest proportion of any group (Table 6).

- The educational attainments of Asian Pacific Americans over 25 years old departed dramatically from those of whites and the total population at several levels (Figure 7 and Table 7). A substantially higher percentage of Asian Pacific Americans had less than a 9th grade education compared with other groups. A much smaller proportion of Asian Pacific Americans were high school graduates compared with other groups and the total population.

V. Housing

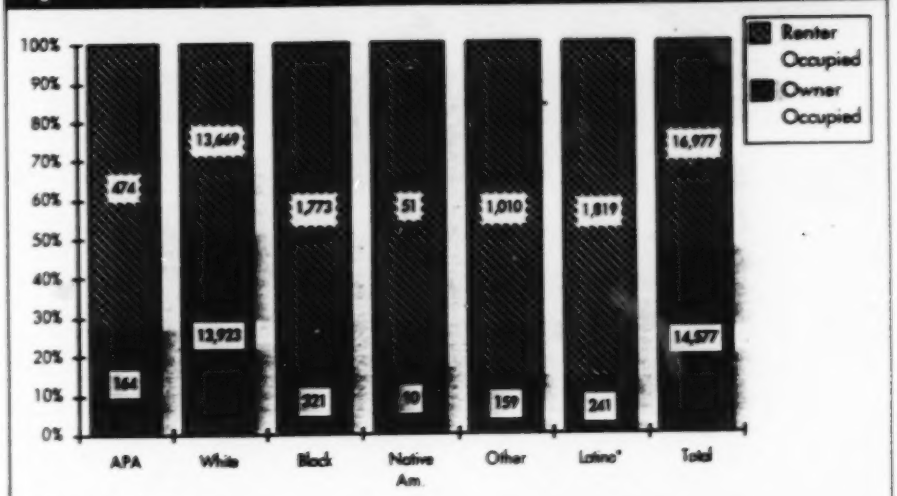
• The owner-occupancy rate for Asian Pacific Americans was considerably less than that of whites and the total population (Figure 8).

• Of Asian Pacific Americans who paid rents nearly 90% paid more than $499 (Table 8 and Figure 9).

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

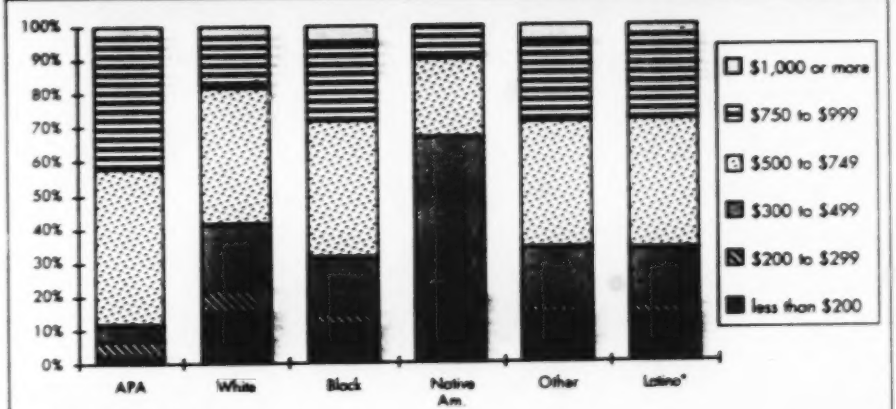
The 1990 U.S. Census data allows for the examination of the situation of Asian Pacific Americans and provides the most comprehensive available information on this group. The data, however, does have some limitations. Linguistic, cultural, and other barriers contributed to an undercounting of Asian Pacific Americans in the 1990 Census. Furthermore, by aggregating Asian Pacific Americans together, differences between nationalities were often muted. Errors in coding also limited the reliability of some data on Asian Pacific Americans.

Figure 8. Rental and Owner Occupancy By Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

Figure 9. Gross Rent By Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

Table 8. Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*
less than $200	9	1,993	193	10	142	244
$200 to $299	21	961	65	0	23	51
$300 to $499	24	2,582	300	24	176	308
$500 to $749	211	5,404	707	12	372	694
$750 to $999	178	1,998	417	5	236	451
$1,000 or more	17	453	88	0	51	61
No cash rent	14	254	3	0	0	0

*Latinos may be of any race